Terry Tamminen
Agency Secretary
Cal/EPA

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Edwin F. Lowry, Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 22, 2004

Mr. Dave Bacharowski
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

ASSISTANCE REQUEST FOR COMMUNITY MEMBER CONCERNS, WEST HILLS, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Bacharowski:

On March 24, 2004, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) staff participated in a Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) Workgroup meeting, held by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the Simi Valley Cultural Center. DTSC staff provided updates, presentations, and participated in discussions about ongoing perchlorate investigations on and off-site of the SSFL. One of the presentations given by DTSC staff included a summary of recent surface water and groundwater sampling activities conducted and overseen by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) in Simi Valley to assess the presence of perchlorate in groundwater.

During the public comment period of the meeting, Ms. Bonnie Klea, a resident of West Hills located about two miles west of the SSFL, relayed her concern that off-site investigation efforts were focused too heavily on Simi Valley, not in communities west of the site. She indicated that the investigation efforts seem disproportionate relative to the greater quantity of surface water that flows from SSFL toward the west into her community. Specifically, Ms. Klea requested that samples be collected from gas station groundwater monitoring wells, the Chatsworth Reservoir, and other off-site locations west of SSFL. We know that the LARWQCB has conducted some soil sampling and analysis in Dayton Canyon Creek and at the Chatsworth Reservoir. Also, routine monitoring of storm water and other wastewater discharges originating from the SSFL are required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. Mrs. Klea has made this point in previous SSFL Workgroup meetings yet feels that additional actions are necessary.

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DTSC will continue to oversee characterization investigations of perchlorate and other chemicals in soil and groundwater at SSFL, however, DTSC requests the assistance of the LARWQCB in addressing Ms. Klea's concerns regarding offsite investigations.

If you have any further questions regarding Ms. Klea's concerns, please contact me at (916) 255-3574, or Mr. Peter Bailey, Hazardous Substances Engineering Geologist, at (916) 255-3602.

Sincerely,

//signed by//

James M. Pappas, P.E., Chief
Northern California Permitting and Corrective Action Branch

cc: Mr. Gerard Abrams C.Hg.
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